

Pat A. Strong
Chair

Scott O. Brame
Vice Chair

Artis L. Terrell, Jr.
Secretary

E. Joseph Savoie
Commissioner of
Higher Education



BOARD OF REGENTS

P. O. Box 3677
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3677
Phone (225) 342-4253, FAX (225) 342-9318
www.regents.state.la.us

William D. Blake
Richard E. D'Aquin
Frances T. Henry
Ingrid T. Labat
Robert W. Levy
W. Clinton Rasberry, Jr.
Mary Ellen Roy
William Clifford Smith
Harold M. Stokes
Roland M. Toups
Terry C. Landry, Jr., Student

January 17, 2007

Contact: Kevin Hardy

Regents Issue RFP for Provision of Community College Services at Rapides Parish Learning Center

The Board of Regents has set in motion a process that will make it possible for the Learning Center for Rapides Parish (LCRP) to expand significantly the community college services available to students in Central Louisiana. The Board has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) from two-year institutions interested in providing complete associate degree programs at LCRP.

"The Board of Regents has charged the Learning Center with providing for their region postsecondary education services not otherwise available," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. "This LCRP initiative is critically important to Louisiana's Master Plan strategy for the delivery of postsecondary education services."

"This initiative will provide residents of central Louisiana access to community college services at community college prices," said Marjorie Taylor, dean of the Learning Center. "It will offer new opportunities to those who either do not meet selective admissions standards at other institutions or who want to begin their college experience by pursuing a two-year degree."

A student who does not meet higher admission standards at a four-year institution will be able to enroll in the community college courses at the Learning Center and transfer earned college credits or an associate degree to a four-year institution at a later point, Taylor said. If all goes as expected, the expanded services could be offered at the Learning Center as early as summer 2007.

The Board of Regents' *Learning Center for Rapides Parish*, located on England Airpark in Alexandria, offers educational services from postsecondary institutions throughout Louisiana and beyond. LCRP provides citizens of Central Louisiana quality educational opportunities in a state-of-the-art, non-traditional instructional environment. The only consortium of its kind in the state, the Learning Center provides students a gateway to more postsecondary institutions than many of the state's major metropolitan areas. The Learning Center offers a broad scope of opportunities to better meet students' educational needs and schedules. Academic offerings range from certificate programs and associate degrees through baccalaureate degrees and graduate degrees, as well as continuing education options.

The RFP can be accessed on the Board of Regents web site (www.regents.state.la.us). Click on "What's New at the Board of Regents," then "Request for Proposals – Community College Services for Central Louisiana."